On October 19, Phillips 66 appealed the Planning Commission’s denial to the SLO County Board of Supervisors. On October 5, the SLO County Planning Commission voted to reject Phillips 66’s proposed oil train terminal in the city of San Luis Obispo. The decision came after a nearly three-year review process, with more than 20,000 Californians opposing the project, and more than 40 cities, counties, and school boards sending letters opposing the planning commission to deny it. This decision comes on the heels of the Benicia City Council’s rejection Tuesday night of a similar project proposed for Valero’s Benicia refinery. The Benicia denial came only hours after the federal Surface Transportation Board issued an order authorizing the city’s authority to deny Valero’s project. The Board’s ruling rejecting the claim that local government permissions are preempted by federal law and lack the authority to deny hazardous projects stated for their communities also applies to San Luis Obispo County, where Phillips 66 has made similar arguments. As such, the Phillips 66 oil train terminal would allow more than 7 million gallons of crude oil to be shipped via rail to its local refinery each week. The project would make it possible for Phillips 66 to refine volatile and carbon-intensive tar sands crude from Canada and elsewhere in the United States. Tar sands crude, when prepared for transport, is mixed with an acceptable blend of chemicals that have been known to explode in derailment inci- dent, which have become increasingly frequent in recent years.

This vote was a great victory for the people of San Luis Obispo and California, as well as for the planet. This victory demonstrates the power of communities all around the state who organized and participated in the public process to defeat this ill-conceived and dangerous project. Kudos also to the local residents who refused to be intimidated by a huge and politically powerful corporation that wants to put profits before community safety.

Andrés Sato, Organizer Communities for a Better Environment
There’s No App for That
by Judith Brennson

It’s heartbreaking, the man says, Surveying his home that drowned in Louisiana. From the comfort of our couch I agree. It’s heartbreaking. But guess what? We brought this on ourselves.

It’s heart-breaking they say, but, July on record. I can attest to that. Fires raging up and down southwest Poppadon, California, I spot them. As I drive through the freeway.

I smell the smoke from Big Sue (Please, oh God of Farms. Spare the home of Henry Miller),

See the dances from the blazes Ernie Farm, 

Wither to twenty thousand acres,

Every case of the rash and famous

Might not be spared.

But you know what? We brought this on ourselves, So maybe the Fire God isn’t interested.

Could there be an app to extinguish the flames,

Revive the dead, bring back drowned towns?

Could there be an app to dry out Louisiana,

So maybe the Fire God isn’t interested.

Might not be spared.

As I drive down the freeway.

July on record. I can attest to that,

I agree. Heartbreaking.

His town that drowned in Louisiana.

It’s heartbreaking, the man says, surveying

There’s No App for That

Santa Lucia Chapter

EDITOR
Karen Merriam

Greg McMillan

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PARK CITY COORDINATOR

The Santa Lucia Chapter has published for the past ten years a newspaper, environmental information, and letters to the editor are welcome. The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month.

To: Editor, Santa Lucia Chapter, Sierra Club P.O. Box 17575 San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

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Santa Lucia Chapter

2016 Executive Committee
Karen Merriam (12/18)•Chair
Linda Deed (12/17)•TREASURER
Sandra Harvey (12/16)•MEMBER
Linda Deed (12/16)•MEMBER

OCTOBER 2016

OPEN

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Delegates
Linda Deed, Patrick McGibney

Save Earth

On October 14, the County Planning Department received objections from the Sierra Club and Edna Valley community and pulled the Greengate Farms request for an event permit from the consent calendar — re-

served for items non-

controversial they are con-

sidered approved without discussion or alteration — and took public comment.

Santa Lucian

November 1

Nov. 1: Save Price Canyon

By Art Lash, California Clean Energy Campaign, Center for Biological Diversity

On October 13, an important rally and hearing on the fate of San Luis Obispo County’s underground water supply happened at San Luis Obispo Superior Court.

Right now, over 70 aquifers in California could become trash dumps for the oil industry. State oil regulators are considering allowing the EPA to exempt these aquifers from the federal Safe Drinking Water Act so that Big Oil can inject toxic waste into them.

The Arroyo Grande Oil Field has the first exemption application on deck. For at least 100 water supply wells for drinking and irrigation within a mile of the adjacent aquifer. If the EPA approves the application, the president will set that California’s underground aquifers are not suit-

able garbage dumps for the oil industry, and oil giant ExxonMobil could move forward with plans to drill hundreds of new wells.

The Center filed a lawsuit against state oil regulators (DOGGR) for “rubber-stamping” an application to the EPA to use the A.G. aquifer as a garbage dump for toxic oil.

Big Oil’s response was to bully the Center and local allies in Protect Price Canyon by demanding the court dismiss the suit. They failed.

We overrode Big Oil bullying this time, but now the real work starts. We need to help make sure that when the industry comes back, we’re able to defeat them again. This is a very exciting time to be a part of this work, because there’s a real chance of victory.

That’s why we’d like to invite you to join your fellow residents and come to the protest Price Canyon meeting on Monday, November 3, to build the mone-

tum and talk next steps. We’ll be taking action on several fronts — including outreach to Big. Los Cerritos before the lease expires, to businesses, farmers, family and neighbors; to the local papers and the EPA — that need leadership from folks like you.

Can we count on you to join us and make this campaign to protect our water worthwhile?

WHAT: Protect Price Canyon Community Meeting

WHERE: Trinity Hall, 6565 Edna Road, San Luis Obispo.

RSVP with Natalie at natalie@protectpricecanyon.org.

Fire and Flooding: Are You Prepared?

On Monday, September 11, the United States experienced two disasters — a fire and a flood — that are expected to cost billions of dollars to repair. These events are just the latest in a series of disasters that have occurred in recent years.

In California, wildfires have been a growing problem in recent years. The most recent example was the Camp Fire, which burned through Butte County in November 2018. The fire burned over 18,000 acres and forced the evacuation of more than 20,000 people. The fire caused 36 deaths and destroyed over 1,000 homes.

In addition to wildfires, California also experiences flooding, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley. The valley is home to the largest city in the region, Fresno. In 2019, the city was hit by a flood that caused millions of dollars in damage. The flood was caused by heavy rains that washed over the valley.

In light of these events, it is important to be prepared for disasters. This means having an emergency plan, a disaster kit, and knowing what to do in case of an emergency.

An emergency plan should include information on where to go in case of a disaster, who to contact, and what to bring with you. A disaster kit should include supplies such as water, food, medication, and first aid kit.

It is also important to stay informed about potential disasters in your area. This can be done through local news outlets or emergency notification systems.

By staying prepared, we can minimize the impact of disasters on our communities. This means being able to quickly and efficiently respond to a disaster, limiting the loss of life and property, and allowing our communities to bounce back more quickly.

So, what can you do to prepare your family for a disaster? Here are a few tips:

- Make an emergency plan and practice it with your family.
- Build a disaster kit with essential supplies.
- Stay informed about potential disasters in your area.

By taking these steps, you can help ensure that you and your family are prepared for any disaster that may occur in your community.

Sierra Club General Meeting

“Love Thy Nature”

7-9 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 16

Join us for a screening of the recently released environmental documentary, “Love Thy Nature,” winner of over 25 film festivals around. Narrated by Liam Neeson, the film is a cin-

ematic immersion into our rela-

tionship with the natural world. interspersed with commentary by leading ecologists about our need for a renewed connection with nature.

Following the film, our chapter director and chair will discuss the chapter’s exciting initiatives for 2017. Questions and com-

ments welcome.

Meat at Stacey Gallery, 1531 Monterey St., SLO.

Info: Joe Morris, 549-6355.

Tell the White House: Designate the Chumash Heritage National Monument Now! Go to tinyurl/CHNMSpetition

Santa Lucia

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Printed by University Graphic Systems Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with funding from the City of San Luis Obispo. 

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San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
ODSVRA, Are You Kidding?

On September 30, we submitted the following comments to the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Oceano Dunes SVRA Dust Control Program.

State Parks was required to prepare the report in order to assess what environmental impacts dust control measures might have on the dunes and mitigate them. We strayed our comments on the Draft EIR in an attempt to stand in the foot of our CEQA suit in the County to make it to court. Sierra Club and supported the Measure J effort to prevent the Dalidio project. For fun we went to the monthly Solar Cooking class. A farm-to-tablewife, I enjoy hiking, biking, exploring the scenic beauty near and far and love Laughlin-Walnut groups. I play and volunteer with a broad range of folks in our county and have a knack for connecting them with one another. I believe in collaborating with others, bringing all voices to the table for resolving issues and to have a good time along the way!

Marcia Allen

Marcia moved here from Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1998. Soon after arriving she worked on the SOLO campaign and in the process, I met my wife who are now long term friends. Over the years I participated in fundraising on behalf of OCSLO and Sierra Club and supported the Measure J effort to prevent the Dalidio project. For fun we went to the monthly Solar Cooking class. A farm-to-tablewife, I enjoy hiking, biking, exploring the scenic beauty near and far and love Laughlin-Walnut groups. I play and volunteer with a broad range of folks in our county and have a knack for connecting them with one another. I believe in collaborating with others, bringing all voices to the table for resolving issues and to have a good time along the way!

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Marcia Allen
The county council members' August decision to put the health and safety of their families, communities and the oil industry's blatant disregard for community health and safety - has ignited a broader revocation of the oil industry's social license along the West Coast. Communities recognize that extreme oil infrastructure come about? For one, the dramatic and rapid rise of clean technologies - including electric vehicles - wind, solar, storage, and the supposed creation of new mining jobs - are not wrong. The representatives of everyone - from teachers unions, student bodies, health professionals, associations, etc., etc., etc… all taxpayers and property owners of this county who are not special interests - are the oil company can achieve a margin is more important.

In my nine years as a community organizer, I've heard people who commented on this project outnumber all other projects. I've been considered added together, by far.

I have read each and every one of the more than 21,000 comments submitted to this commission. And after pouring over the submittal forms and lists of names that are the balance of the counties who are not special interests or neighbors. They, and the people of the counties and cities represented by the letters we received from city councils and supervisors all up and down the Union Pacific Line. Of these last letters, the rant was nearly at 95%, including all of the students, teachers, and supervisors, asked us to vote against this project. I cannot see how any commissioner from this county who isn’t mayor to cover up all of the oil, so we have to do it.

The task force held its first meeting on October 13 in San Francisco, where the task force in creating an interagency Energy Task Force. BOEM opened a large area lease...
The Los Padres Is Not For Sale

Want to take a hike in the Los Padres National Forest? Pay up.

The Los Padres chapter of the Sierra Club and other conservation groups in seaside Ventura County have launched an all-out effort to transfer nearly 1 million acres of land that the federal government currently owns to a private, nonprofit conservation entity: the Nature Conservancy. The sale is to help pay for an expansion of the central California coastal dunes to protect sea birds and surrounding habitat.

The Sierra Club's plan, which is intended to expand the Edna Valley from the San Luis Obispo County line to the Santa Barbara County line, is the latest in a long series of efforts to enclose the dunes ecosystem with a corridor of public land to protect them from the threat of development. The Sierra Club's ultimate goal is to buy the entire 1 million acres of federal land in the Edna Valley.

Big Oil

extends so far as to defy local governments and land use planning efforts. Even over competing oil proposal efforts. Ultimately, the decision affirms BLM's right to do what it wants with the land, even if it is never used or across the country and thereby protect the California, NY, and CA.

The following week, on October 5, the San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors held a meeting where the Hill Farming and Development Co. proposed a new project. The new plan was to be built on land that had been refused a new oil well.

The project, known as the Oceano Dunes Pilot Projects report, is described in their Oceano Dunes Pilot Projects report as a “zero net emissions” project that would involve the building of 80 new homes and the construction of a new road.

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What is Central Coast Power?

CCE is an example of the Community Choice Energy (CCE) model that has been emerging across the United States. In California, there are about 80 local government sponsored CCE programs. CCE programs are a type of municipal energy program that allows communities to choose their own electric service provider. CCE programs were created in response to the growing desire for communities to have more control over their energy and to choose a provider that aligns with their values.

In a CCE program, customers continue to be served by the same electric utility — including the same rate structure, service level, and reliability — and pay the same electricity bill to their current utility. However, CCE programs allow communities to select a different electric service provider. This choice has the potential to lower community energy costs and reduce the community’s environmental footprint.

Why Choose CCE?

CCE offers many advantages. Here are just a few:

- Lower Energy Costs: CCE programs can often offer lower energy costs than the current utility.
- Environmental Benefits: CCE programs can help communities reduce their carbon footprint.
- Local Control: CCE programs give communities more control over their energy choices.
- Customer Service: CCE programs often offer better customer service.

How Does It Work?

In a CCE program, customers continue to be served by the same electric utility and pay the same electricity bill. However, CCE programs allow communities to select a different electric service provider. This choice has the potential to lower community energy costs and reduce the community’s environmental footprint.

In order for a CCE program to be successful, there must be a strong demand for it. This can be achieved through community engagement and education. CCE programs also require a strong leadership structure, including a dedicated staff and board of directors.

In the case of Central Coast Power, the CCE program was established through a community-driven process. The program was created by a group of community members who were concerned about the future of energy in their region. The group worked together to develop a plan for a local energy program that was both affordable and environmentally sustainable.

Conclusion

It’s clear that CCE programs offer a valuable option for communities looking to take control of their energy choices. CCE programs can help communities reduce their energy costs and reduce their carbon footprint. They can also provide better customer service and more control over energy choices.

As we look to the future, it’s clear that CCE programs will continue to play an important role in shaping the energy landscape. By giving communities the power to choose their own energy providers, CCE programs offer a path to a more sustainable and equitable future.
This internationally known event encourages community recycling of unwanted clothing through artistic reuse. The event will include various do-it-yourself workshops including: basic sewing, repurposing a T-shirt, a children’s craft table and more. Each workshop will be taught by local artists. The event is sponsored by Soul & Oak, a business that offers home craft and tea parties for individuals and businesses. All proceeds will go to support the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club.
Activities sponsored by other organizations

Sun. “Singersongwriters of the San Joaquin,” The Wildlands Conservancy. The Conser-

vancy kicks off its new music series on November 3 at the Wind Wolves Preserve, with

six-time Entertainment of the Year artist Dave Stanyi, and local banjo champion Erin

Ilguiñez. Local bands will go toward the preserve’s Outdoor Education Program, which

provides free nature programs for school children in San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties.

Dave Stanyi has been dubbed “the Charlie Russell of Western Music.” He has been

named California’s Male Performer of the Year and Songwriter of the Year by the Western Music Association. His authen-

tic, original music evokes the historic and cultural landscape of the Vaquero as well as the life of today’s working cow-

boys.

Erin Ilguiñez is a Central Coast favorite, delighting audiences with her unique and style-

ring, reminiscent of the activist stylings of Peggy Seeger. In 2013, Erin toured the entire California coast to cele-

brate “Sing Out! Native Earth.”

For tickets and information, go to: http://wildlandsconservancy.org/